

# The Varsity

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BY

## THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

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JANUARY 27, 1890.

### THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



HOSE who attended the meeting of the Literary Society held last Friday night witnessed a good sleight-of-hand performance. The Society was juggling with itself. Now we are the Literary Society, see? with nothing to trouble us but our by-laws and constitution" and—presto!! "Now we are the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, see? weighed down by our country's future and our own past."

Really, we looked like a Parliament—the clerk stringing off the orders of the day, the Government benches and the long files of fighting members. We had all the pride and pomp and paper of Her Majesty's most faithful Government and Her Majesty's most loyal Opposition. Even the heads of the members had a Parliamentary look. The embattled fronts of the ministers told of prae-Confederation days and the enlarged capita of the younger members breathed of battles in the back townships—they dined on blue books and lunched on each other's reputation and the promises made to constituents.

It was truly a deliberative assembly. The Speaker—the sad-voiced Speaker—looked as if he was thinking, the members of the Government as if they thought they were thinking, and the members of the Opposition as if they thought that everybody else thought they were thinking. It was remarked when the ministry was formed that it was a remarkably strong one, and so it has proved. It is

supported by Webster's eloquence, the Pontiff's influence and the deep voice of the bellowing member may at least be relied on for interrupting the Opposition. The Minister of Militia and Defence fairly bubbles over with the statistics of his department, and the whole anti-clerical vote will, no doubt, be captured by these two cabinet ministers, who swear every time they sign their own names.

In the Speech from the Throne, the Governor-General shook the red rag in the face of the United States Government, and complimented the Finance Minister on the livelier iris of his complexion. The hon. gentleman has just returned from Jamaica, and he proposes to import the well-known products of Jamaica free of duty.

Mr. Wood, '94, and Mr. Peas, '94, moved and seconded the adoption of the address in reply. They delivered good speeches in good form. They spoke of the valuable prosperity and laid down the three planks of the Government's platform—prohibition, Imperial Federation and eight-hours-a-day labor.

The leader of the Opposition followed, and as he spoke of the country's misery and of trade's decay, the sound of the member's big tears bouncing on the floor seemed to the country members like the noise made by the chickens feeding on their barn floors at home.

Messrs. Buckingham, Cooper and Perrin made very effective speeches. Buckingham has a very winning way of pawing his opponents. He is a thorough partisan, and his arguments are never off-side. His speeches are bright, and yet they have a strength of conviction which make them very telling. Cooper's are buttered with the marrow of economics, and Perrin marshals out his periods with as much pomp and circumstance as if he had timed them to the tap of K Company's drum. Mr. A. McMillan devoted his time between political questions and the "other elements." Social questions have a peculiar charm for Mr. McMillan, and his field is probably that of social reform. He will succeed as a politician when he confines himself to strictly political questions, but in the meantime he should remember that these are "mere girls."

Just before the members rose the Leader of the Government made the announcement that the voice of the sweet singer of Perth would not be heard this year outside of his native shire, and when the wild cheering of his followers was over the House swallowed itself and became the Society again. It is admitted by all that the Mock Parliament surpassed itself last Friday night. There was less better in the saddle, and the Opposition hit harder than ever before.

It was moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, that \$25 be granted to the Engineering Society. It was asked on the ground that the exhibit of the Engineers had always been one of the most interesting features of the conversazione, that the Society of Engineers was open to all the students of the college, and that such a grant would be in the interest of the whole student body. It seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the Society wasn't going to take Mr. Deacon in earnest. Anyone could tell there was danger in the Society's eye as it tilted forward its long hairy ear and listened to the speeches on this motion—it kicked—and fragments of the motion have since been falling east of the Don and west of the Humber. The Class of '94 had a \$25 motion on the board also, but the Society smiled "a smile that was wary and weird," and Mr. Reeves, when he couldn't get the subsidy, subsided.

Mr. Cooper gave notice of a motion that the Society hold a course of lectures and invite the Professors of our own and other universities to lecture, but as it seemed to be the general opinion that the season was too far advanced the notice of motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Pope, convener of the Athletic Committee, promised to hand in the report of the Committee next Friday night so that if necessary the constitution of the proposed association may be published with the Society's constitution. The meeting then adjourned.